

INSPIRING
LEARNING.



2023

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



STRENGTHENING
NEIGHBORHOODS.



KEEPING YOU
CURIOUS.





MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Imagine a future where one in three people are able to read well. Imagine a future where less than half of us can do math. Imagine a world where people lack the social skills to compromise and work together to solve our collective problems. Imagine a world where most of us lack the confidence to succeed.

That's the future our children in Kenosha County face right now. Only 36% of our third graders can read at a third grade level. 24% can do grade level math in 5th grade.

That's why we're building a children's library where learning is fun, where kids can be themselves and explore a whole world of ideas in an interactive, inclusive space designed just for them.

The 7,624 sq. ft. space just for kids from birth through 5th grade, set to open this summer, combines federal relief funding with private corporate and foundation gifts to purchase and finish the kids' library space on the first floor of the new Uptown Lofts housing complex, a site that burned to the ground in the 2020 civil unrest.

The Kenosha Public Library intends to build an entire neighborhood of strong children in the wake of devastation. Join us in this extraordinary effort.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Barbara Brattin**, Director
- Brandi Cummings**, Assistant Director
- Rob Nunez**, Data and IT Manager
- Michelle Tucker**, Business Manager
- Heather Thompson**, Head of Youth & Family Services
- Marcia Siehr**, Head of Outreach Services and Programming
- Shannon Urban**, Southwest Library Branch Manager
- Jennifer Kozelou**, Northside Library Branch Manager
- Kahlil Griffin**, Uptown Libraries Branch Manager
- Justin Keberlein**, Simmons Library Supervising Librarian
- Jeremy Elder**, Marketing Manager
- Dan Davis**, Maintenance Superintendent

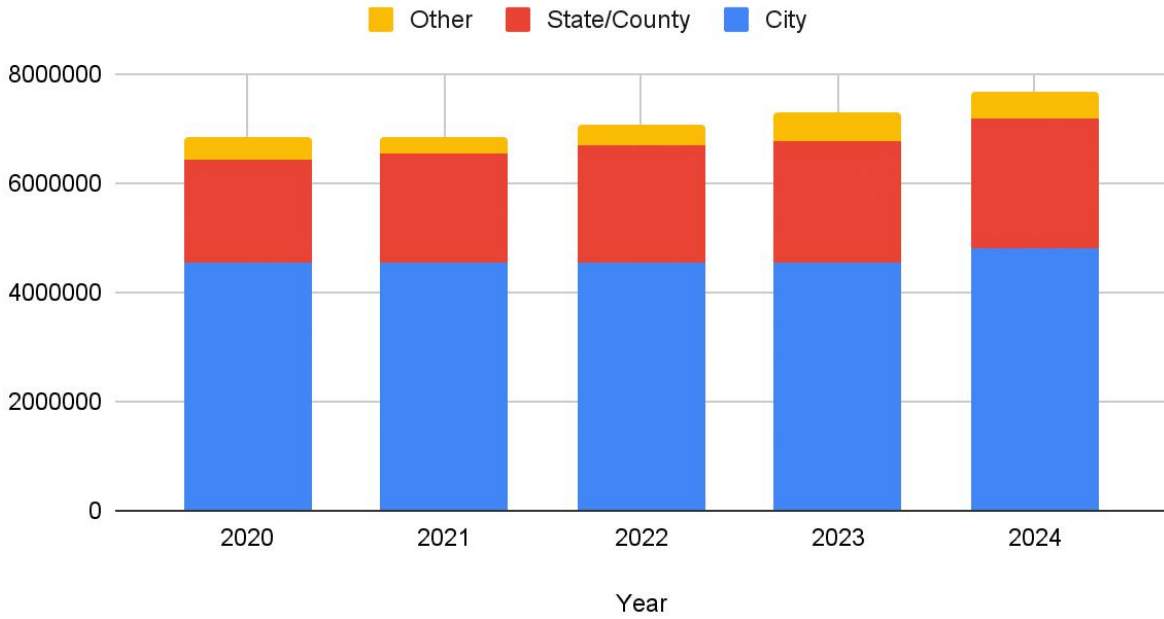


Barbara Brattin

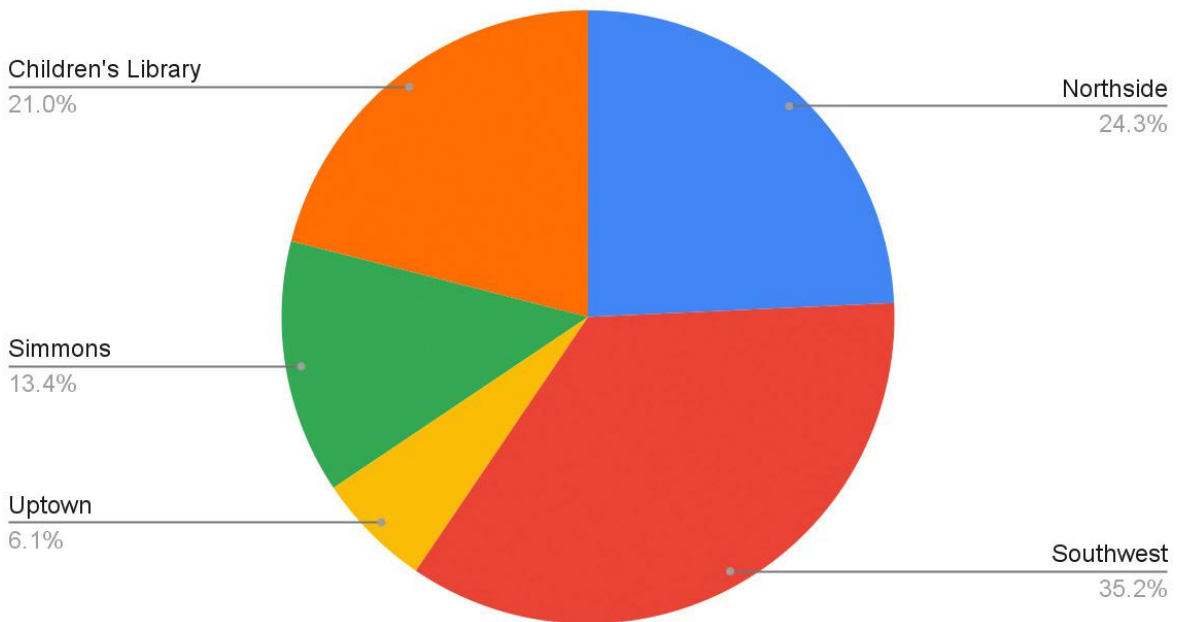


DATA SNAPSHOT

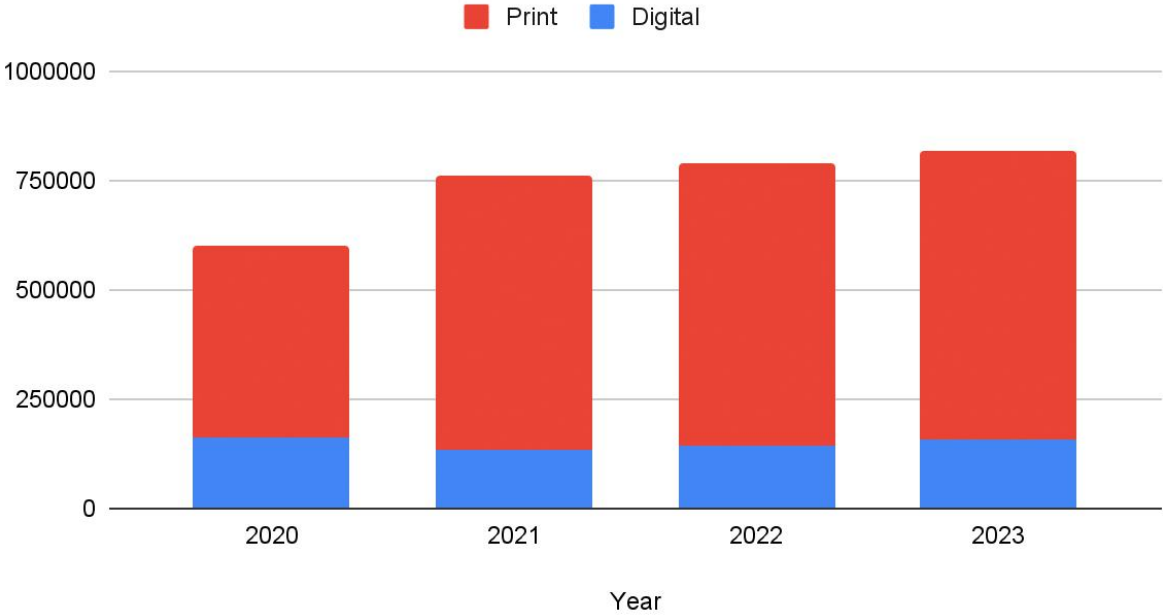
Library Revenue by Source



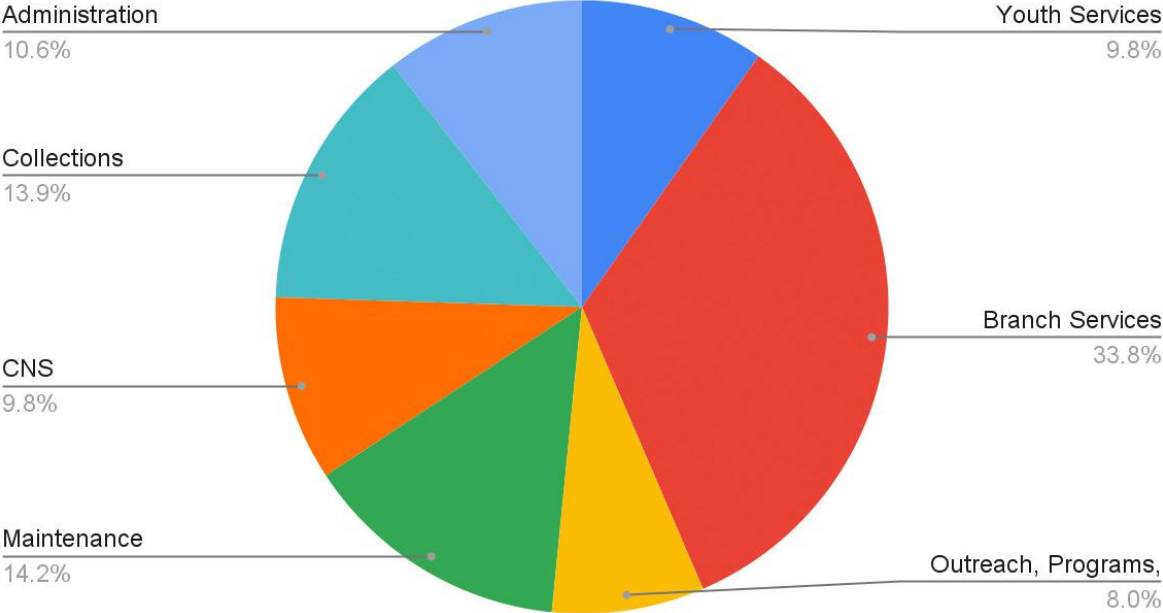
2024 Funding by Location



Digital vs. Print



2024 Funding by Function



KPL INSPIRES LIFELONG LEARNING

By giving people in Kenosha access to the Internet and imparting technical skills, we have reduced the city's digital gap. In 2023, those without access to computers were given 375 hotspot/Chromebook kits to check out, there were over 81k computer station sessions, and our staff made 727 technology appointments.

We helped our community's health and well-being by putting you in touch with professionals. 270 participated in Growing KPL Kids events that brought parents and pediatricians together.

We provided context to the world's challenges and information to help you make informed decisions in your personal lives and at the ballot box.

Over 145k people attended our program events in 2023.


We gave your kids a head start on literacy and sent them to school prepared for success. 100k children attended our early literacy programs in 2023.


We effectively reduced the "summer slide" of math and reading skills by keeping 1,169 children actively engaged in our summer learning challenges.





SUMMER READING RESULTS

A total of **159** survey responses were collected. Of the percentage of parents or caregivers surveyed who either **agreed or strongly agreed** that they benefited from the service or program:

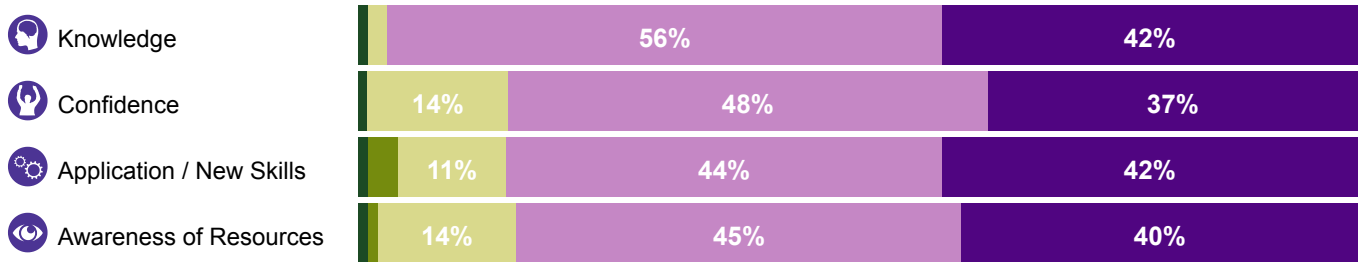
 **98%** reported their child maintained or increased their reading skills






 **86%** reported their child reads more often

 **85%** reported their child is a more confident reader





 **85%** reported their child uses the library more often

The full results of the survey(s) are shown below. *(Note that due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%)*







SCORING:  Strongly Disagree  Disagree  Neither  Agree  Strongly Agree

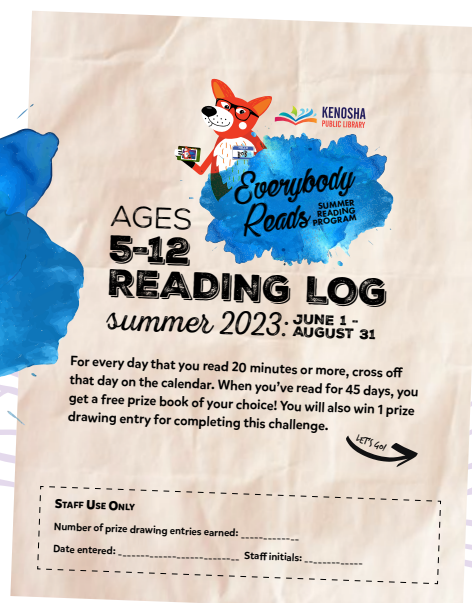
Selected Criteria Average

Criteria	Library
 Knowledge	4.4
 Confidence	4.2
 Application / New Skills	4.2
 Awareness of Resources	4.2

Summer Reading Topic Averages

Criteria	Library	Peer	State/Province	National	Total
 Knowledge	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.0	4.1
 Confidence	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.0
 Application / New Skills	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1
 Awareness of Resources	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.3

AVERAGES: Ranges from 1.0 (Strongly Disagree) to 5.0 (Strongly Agree)



OUR FOUR LOCATIONS STRENGTHENED NEIGHBORHOODS

We hosted opportunities to talk about tough subjects as a community and find our common ground.

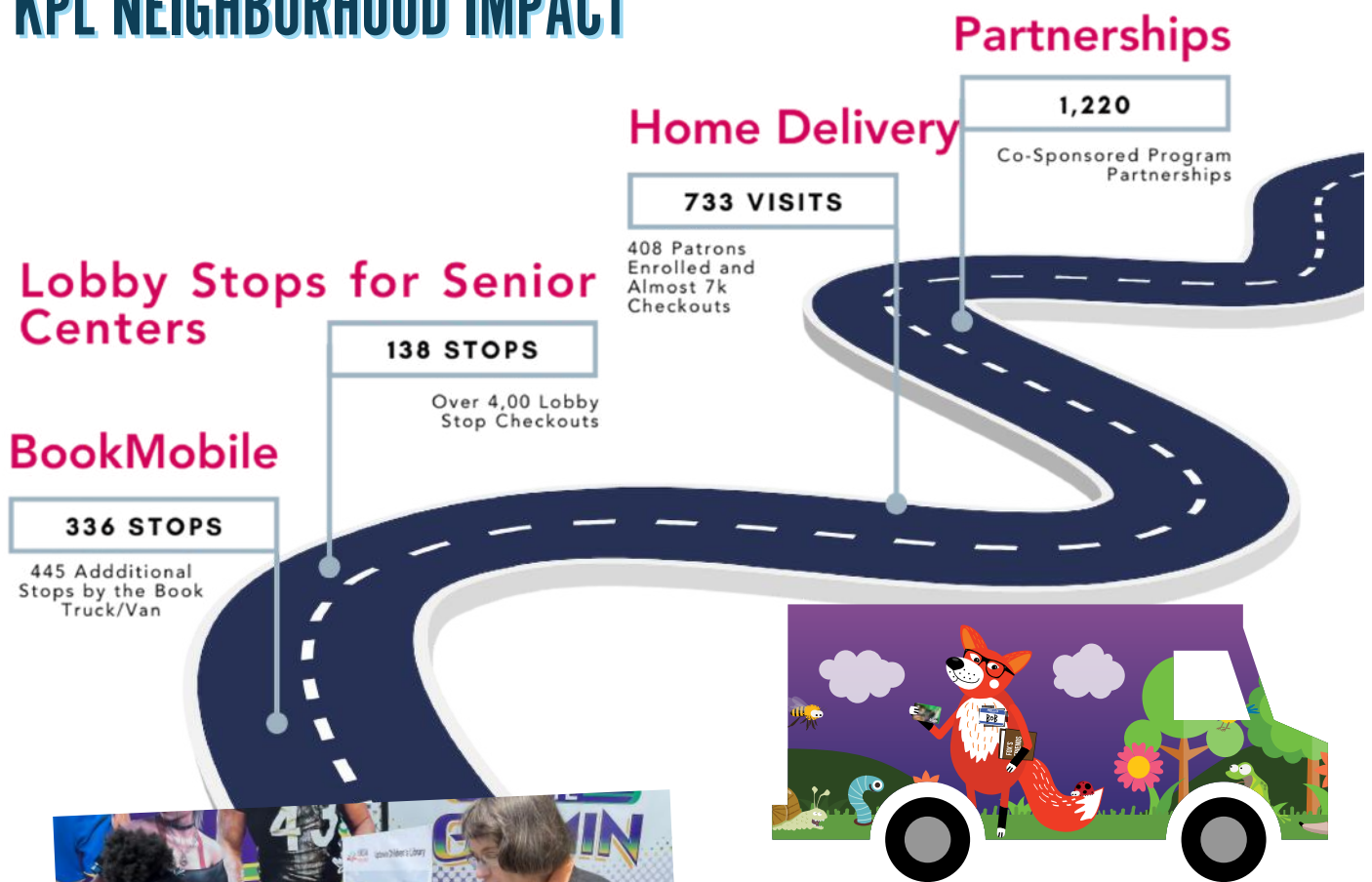
We hired staff who represent the wide array of cultures and backgrounds of our Kenosha community.

We partnered with dozens of community organizations to expand our impact, provide you with referral to social services, and connect you with health, business, and legal experts.

We broadened our reach to community members who could not come to us, offering curriculum and program support to homeschool families, collections and reference service to homebound community members, and easing loneliness for our elderly living in assisted living and nursing home facilities.

We delighted hundreds of kids through the Summer Parks Program bookmobile visits and special events, bringing the library to where you live.

KPL NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT



CURIOSITY IS ALIVE AND WELL AT YOUR LIBRARY

We delighted you with drop-in activities like science experiments, puzzles, and word art that captured your imagination.

We encouraged your creative muses with book clubs, writing groups, and collaborative crafting events.

We designed collections that represent a wide array of opinions and beliefs to challenge you and foster tolerance.



2020 LIBRARY OF THE YEAR: PRESENTED BY THE WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Kenosha Public Library has spent the last six years deeply committed to and heavily involved in our county's StriveTogether initiative, Building Our Future. Immersion in this collective impact partnership has forced the library to critically reexamine all of its policies, services, staffing, and collections through an equity lens. This preparation has enabled the Kenosha Public Library to courageously rise to the challenges of both COVID-19 and the recent riots that sent their city up in flames. Throughout the turmoil, the library staff has remained undaunted. The Kenosha Public Library was determined to deliver programs, collections, and wireless access to neighborhoods across the city. They opened library branches on streets that looked like war zones three days after the fires were extinguished and drove wireless hotspot vans into neighborhoods afflicted with high rates of child poverty. All of this was done to sustain some semblance of normalcy for children and the elderly by getting books into their hands and meeting them virtually face to face.

The fact that Kenosha Public Library's responsibility to the community does not stop at the library's walls and for its progressive commitment to the success of the Kenosha Community, the Kenosha Public Library is truly deserving of the 2020 Library of the Year Award.



2018 POWER OF LIBRARIES AWARD: PRESENTED BY SIRSIDYNIX

Kenosha Public Library was awarded for their leadership in the Kenosha Parks Alliance. Working with 15 other organizations in their community, Kenosha Public Library helped to organize and staff an ongoing summer parks educational and recreational initiative which effectively mitigated youth violence in the parks. In order to keep the community members coming to their local parks, they implemented programs and activities that are positive and fuel life-long learning.



2021 NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM & LIBRARY SERVICE: FINALIST

The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate excellence in service to their communities. Since 1996, the award has honored 170 institutions that demonstrated extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service.



2023 JERRY KLINE COMMUNITY IMPACT PRIZE: HONORABLE MENTION

In August 2020, more than 100 buildings in uptown Kenosha, WI, were damaged or destroyed after days of civil unrest following the police shooting of Jacob Blake. As the city began to rebuild, residents expressed concern for how this would affect the community’s children, who had already weathered disruptions to school and family life during the pandemic. Kenosha Public Library (KPL) opted to put its strategic plan philosophy—strengthening neighborhoods, inspiring learning, and keeping you curious—into tangible action with the construction of its first children’s branch in the heart of uptown Kenosha, a neighborhood with the lowest literacy rates in the city. The new Kids at Uptown Library, located on the ground floor of a 70-apartment mixed-use development, is scheduled to open in spring 2024.

Thanks to an infusion of federal relief dollars and private investment, the new 7,000-square-foot children’s branch will be a vibrant addition to a challenged neighborhood’s renaissance, an interactive learning center focused on full family health, STEM activities, experimental play, art, and curiosity. “No tests, no grades, no failure,” says Director Barbara Brattin of its future users. “Just discovering their own potential among other explorers.”

Helping its most vulnerable community members is nothing new for KPL. In 2015, an incident between police officers and residents led to increased youth violence in a local park, and the mayor reached out to the library. Brattin partnered with more than 15 local organizations to form the Kenosha Parks Alliance, which implemented a free youth day camp, baseball lessons, dinosaur digs, and more, with spoken word and poetry performances for adults; the initiative eventually expanded to four parks throughout the city.

Impactful partnerships are critical to KPL’s mission. Working with the Aurora Health system, the Growing KPL Kids series connects caregivers with medical professionals for health and well-being education. The Dynamic Dads program, a longstanding collaboration between KPL’s Youth and Family Services Department and the Kenosha Correctional Center, offers monthly literacy workshops for incarcerated men to engage with their children through reading, singing, playing, and writing. Partnering with the Coalition to Dismantle Racism, KPL also holds multiple Courageous Conversation programs each year, bringing community members with diverse viewpoints together to discuss current events. All this is in addition to laptop and hot spot distribution, tax help, and a dedicated social worker to direct patrons to social services.

KPL tracked more than 375,000 visits to its branches in 2022—the equivalent of every city resident visiting the library at least four times a year—a strong indication that KPL has earned their community’s support.



NEW CHILDREN'S LIBRARY: SUMMER 2024



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

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Crystal and Andy Callahan
Campaign Co-Chairs

Kathryn and David Andrea

Susan Andrea Schlenker

Mary Matthews

Suzette Jaskie

Ben Anderson

Keeshia Jones

Don Cress

Adelene Green

Terri Wruck

Annette Washington

Trisha Camosy

Calvin Watts

Kahlil Griffin

Susan Radke

Yoshi Kobayashi

Karla Newman

Stephanie Sklba

David Strash

Ellen Kupfer

Andrew Fitzpatrick

Katie Chada

Brandi Cummings

Robert Nunez

Dezarrea Kindle

Georgia Owens

KPL KIDS @ UPTOWN LOFTS DONORS

We thank our generous donors for their contributions to the KPL Kids at Uptown Library.



Additional Donors: Betsy Brown, Kloss, Bosman, Don Cress, Scott Bruss, The Andrea Family, Petretti Properties

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Kenosha Public Library Board of Trustees governs the operation of Kenosha Public Library. Board trustees are appointed by the Mayor of Kenosha and approved by the City Council. KPL Board of Trustees carries out the Library's mission by authorizing the KPL business plan and operating policies, setting long-range goals and objectives, hiring a competent Library Director, monitoring Library operations, and providing accountability for the Library to the public.

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Atifa Robinson
Vice President

Carlos Florez

Sean McKim

Chris Allen
Treasurer

Sonya Gaines

Georgia Owens

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Kenosha Public Library Foundation mobilizes the Kenosha community to improve, promote and support Kenosha Public Library continuously. Your gifts allow us to take the library beyond city funding to a new level of excellence designed to reach the whole community because libraries are for everyone. A Kenosha, Wisconsin nonprofit organization, the foundation fuels literacy, opportunity, and lifelong learning through equal access to free resources. Our work relies on charitable donations, corporate sponsorships, grants, fundraising event support, and other generous investments that help us build better libraries every day.

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Barbara Brattin
Secretary

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Katie Chada
Vice President

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Georgia Owens
Treasurer

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Mary Matthews

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

The Friends of the Kenosha Public Library is a volunteer organization that provides support for the Library's improvement. Primary fundraisers of the Friends include book sales and book bags. From these funds, the Friends purchase equipment, and materials, and provide funding for programming at the Kenosha Public Library.

Courtney McNeal
President

Frances Kavenik
Secretary

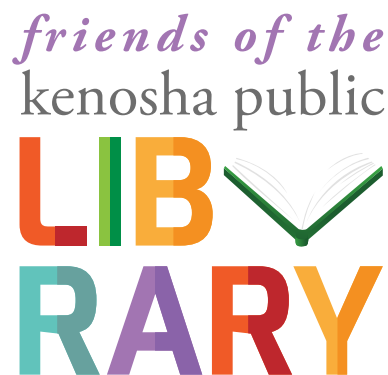
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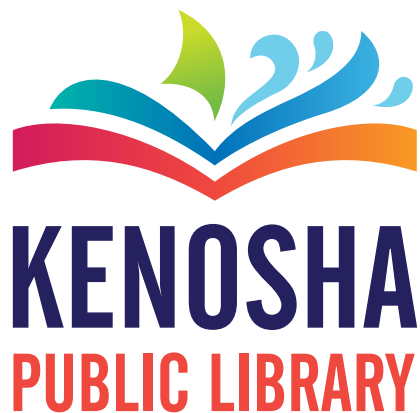


OUR MISSION

The Library is an inclusive, welcoming community that strengthens neighborhoods, inspires shared learning, and nurtures curiosity.

OUR VISION

The Kenosha Community will be universally literate, civically engaged, and embrace multiple cultures and generations.



www.mykpl.info

